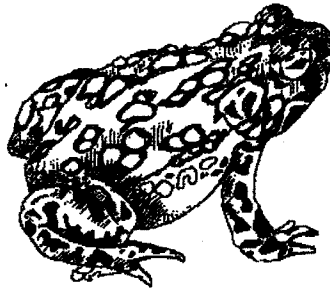


# Yosemite Toad

*Bufo canorus*  
Family Bufonidae



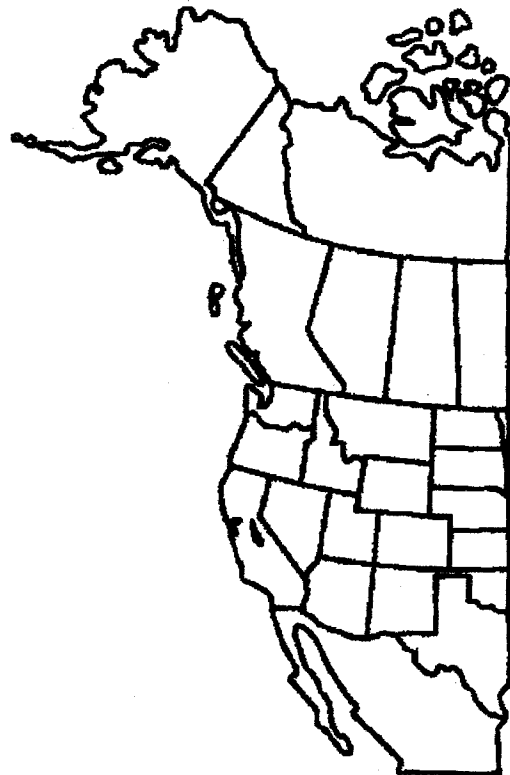
**Global Rank:** G1G2

**State Rank:** S1S2 (CA)

**Distribution:** Restricted to the high Sierra Nevada of California from the vicinity of Grass Lake, Eldorado County, to south of Kaiser Pass and Evolution Lake, Fresno County. Ranges from about 4,800 ft. (1,460 m.) to 12,000 ft. (3,630 m.) in elevation.

**Description:** Adults reach about 2 3/4 in. (6.9 cm.) in snout-vent length. Differs from close relatives by having smoother skin, large, flat paratoids less than the width of a gland apart, and closely set eyes. The distance between the eyes is less than the width of the upper eyelid. Sexes vary greatly in color. Females and young have many blotches on a pale background, paratoids are usually tan-colored, and the dorsal stripe is usually narrow or absent. Males have pale yellow-green or dark olive coloration above, with dark blotches virtually absent or reduced to small scattered flecks. Throats of males and females are similar.

**Reproduction:** Breeds in shallow pools and lake margins, or in the quiet water of streams during April through July. Eggs are laid April to June, with a peak activity in late May. Wa-



*Current range of the Yosemite toad*

ter temperature may be a factor in determining when egg laying takes place. Mean egg clutch size is 8,000 (range 6,000 to 15,000).

**Food:** Preys on insects and other invertebrates, foraging on the surface of the ground.

**Habits:** Prefers mountain meadows, lodgepole pine, and alpine meadow types. Also found in all successional stages of mixed-conifer, Jeffrey pine, and red fir types. Emerge soon after snow melts. Active from April through October, but is chiefly diurnal and usually active only in sunlit areas. On cool days, may not be active until afternoon. The toad seeks shelter in burrows of gophers and meadow mice and in clumps of grass, sedges, or willows near water.

**Management Implications:** Limited and fragile habitat. Territories restricted to vicinity of calling males. Suspected home ranges are about a half acre.

**Important References:** Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Verner, J., and A.S. Boss. 1980. California wildlife and their habitats: western Sierra Nevada. USDA Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, GTR PSW-37, Berkeley, CA.